

the United States at least. This opinion is expressed by Professor Peck in *Boleti*, p. 159. Nearly all the fungi and slime moulds given are common species and have probably been collected by others who have studied the mycologic flora of our island.

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SHORTER NOTES

THREE COTYLEDONS IN JUGLANS. — A whorl of three cotyledons has been recorded in a great variety of dicotyledons. Braun (1869) mentions a considerable number of such cases, Masters (1869) records nine different genera in which this abnormality occurs, and many other references are scattered through botanical literature.

During the last winter I ran across a nut of the so-called English walnut (*Juglans regia* L.) which was perfectly three-valved and which contained an embryo with three, apparently normal, cotyledons.

EDWARD W. BERRY.

PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY.

A NEW ROSELLINIA FROM NICARAGUA — *Rosellinia Bakeri* sp. nov. Perithecia scattered or collected in groups of 3-6, touching each other but not confluent, or in short series of 3 or 4, globose, slightly roughened, except the small, papilliform, black ostiolum, base slightly sunk in the wood, about 0.5 mm. in diameter: asci cylindrical, short-stipitate, spore-bearing part $55-65 \mu \times 7-8 \mu$: sporidia uniseriate, acutely elliptical, more so at one end, subinaequilateral and slightly compressed, $8-10 \mu \times 4-4.5 \mu$ or $3-3.5 \mu$ when viewed edgewise.

On *Urcra*, Chinandega, Nicaragua, December, 1903 (*C. F. Baker*, 3990).

R. compressa E. & D. has smaller perithecia and larger sporidia.

J. B. ELLIS.

NEWFIELD, NEW JERSEY.

A MUCH-NAMED FERN — One ordinarily looks for carelessness of citation as a feature of the systematic (or unsystematic?) botany of the early years of the nineteenth century rather than of

the present period. Redescription of species and unwarranted changes in names, also, were characteristic of the writers of a century ago. But in these recent days we sometimes receive rude shocks from our German friends who occasionally display unexpected unfamiliarity with standard American literature as well as unwarranted laxity of principles in the matter of shifting plant names, all resulting in unnecessary synonymy.

A little Bolivian fern collected by Bang was described just a decade ago by Mrs. Britton as *Acrostichum Moorei*, following the then current interpretation of *Acrostichum* in the wide sense in which it is still employed at Kew. This appeared in our MEMOIRS which ought to be accessible to German writers on ferns, if not in the original then surely in at least two reviews that have appeared in standard German publications, *viz.*: Just's *Bot. Jahresbericht*, 23: 433. 1897, and *Hedwigia*, 34: (109). 1895, the latter also "redigiert von Prof. Georg Hieronymus!", and both of which mention this species by name, author, collector, and type locality!

In spite of this, the fern was destined to be redescribed under two new generic and two new specific names, and after American intervention had called attention to the error, and the original specific name had been restored, the latest emanation from Berlin overlooks all of this citation, redescription and restoration and boldly places the plant in its fourth (and correct!) genus but with its third (and most recent) specific name! And all this is German systematic (?) botany of the twentieth century instead of the nineteenth, where it would not so much surprise us!

The following corrected synonymy gives the details of the story:

***Microstaphyla Moorei* (E. G. Britton)**

Acrostichum Moorei E. G. Britton, Mem. Torrey Club, 4: 273.

1895. (Type from Bolivia, *Bang* 558).

Rhipidopteris Rusbyi Christ, Farnkr. der Erde, 46. 1897. (Type from Bolivia, *Bang* 558!).

Elaphoglossum Bangii Christ, Monog. Elaphoglossum, 99. 1899. (Type from Bolivia, *Bang* 558!).

Elaphoglossum (Microstaphyla) Bangii Christ, Bull. Herb. Boiss. II. 1: 588. 1901.

Elaphoglossum Moorei (E. G. Britton) Christ, Bull. Herb. Boiss.
 II. 3: 148. 1903.

Microstaphyla Bangii (Christ) Hieron. Bot. Jahrb. Engler, 34:
 539. 1904.

It is to be hoped that after this tedious experience the poor
 fern will rest in peace!

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
 20 April, 1905.

REVIEWS

Species and Varieties; Their Origin by Mutation*

To write two similarly comprehensive works upon the same subject, treated from the same point of view, and not displace the first by the second, nor make the second superfluous is a problem of no small magnitude. In presenting a second work on the mutation theory, Professor Hugo de Vries has solved this problem in a most admirable fashion.

"Species and Varieties: Their Origin by Mutation" is in no sense a rendering into English, of "Die Mutationstheorie," and is much more valuable in many respects than such translation could be made. The author was doubtless greatly aided in the successful solution of the problem by the difference of origin of the two works. "Die Mutationstheorie" is primarily a detailed exposition of the results of research, and was addressed to scientists who would appreciate — nay, demand — all the evidence on which are based the far-reaching generalizations involved in the theory of mutation. "Species and Varieties," on the other hand, having grown out of a series of lectures delivered by the author, before the students of a university, assumes in consequence a much less rigid scientific aspect, becoming by necessity intelligible to a wider circle of readers. A technical scientific work may be pored over by those immediately interested in its subject matter until all its important details are comprehended; but the successful lecturer must make himself instantly intelligible to his audience.

* De Vries, H. Species and Varieties: Their Origin by Mutation. Edited by D. T. MacDougal. 8vo, pp. xii + 847. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co. F 1905.